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*France-Canada: De Gaulle seems intent on exploiting Canada to dramatize the campaign he has launched against US world "hegemony."

His decision to brazen out the storm stirred up by his shout of "long live free Quebec" on his recent trip to Canada seems aimed at emphasizing the differences between French- and English-speaking Canadians. Initially, French Government spokesmen had implied that he was unaware of the significance the slogan had in Canada, where it is identified with Quebec's small pro-independence group. The French Government's statement of 31 July, however, makes it appear that he chose the slogan deliberately to stress the role of French Canada in resisting the dominance of "Anglo-Saxon" power.

This is evidenced by the distinction De Gaulle attempts to draw between the federal regime in Ottawa and "French Canadians and their government." By citing the agreements--cultural, economic, scientific, and technical--concluded in recent years between Paris and Quebec he suggests a special role for France in forwarding French-Canadian aspirations.

His ambiguous reference to the liberating aims the French Canadians themselves have set will be interpreted in every imaginable way in Canada. Nevertheless, by citing French-Canadian determination to run their own affairs, "if possible through the evolution of Canada as a whole," he made a definite gesture toward Quebec separatists. Moderate Quebec nationalists insist their goals can be attained within the Canadian Confederation.

In any event, the issues De Gaulle seized on will now be debated with renewed vigor in Canada. The lines are already drawn between the two major parties in Quebec. The Daniel Johnson regime has endorsed the public statements De Gaulle made while he was in Quebec, denying only that freedom necessarily implies independence. The opposition Liberal Party has taken a strong stand against the separatist implications of De Gaulle's opinions. []

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Peru: A dispute between President Belaunde and the Congress has plunged Peru into its most serious constitutional crisis in recent years.

On 28 July the opposition-controlled Senate voided the election of the government's candidate for presiding officer, allegedly by fraudulent tactics. The government senators' resulting boycott has prevented any activity by either house of Congress.

*An opposition party leader reportedly met with President Belaunde on 29 July to discuss the current impasse and to begin negotiations toward a possible solution. Although no agreement was reached, both sides appeared eager to reach a reasonable compromise.

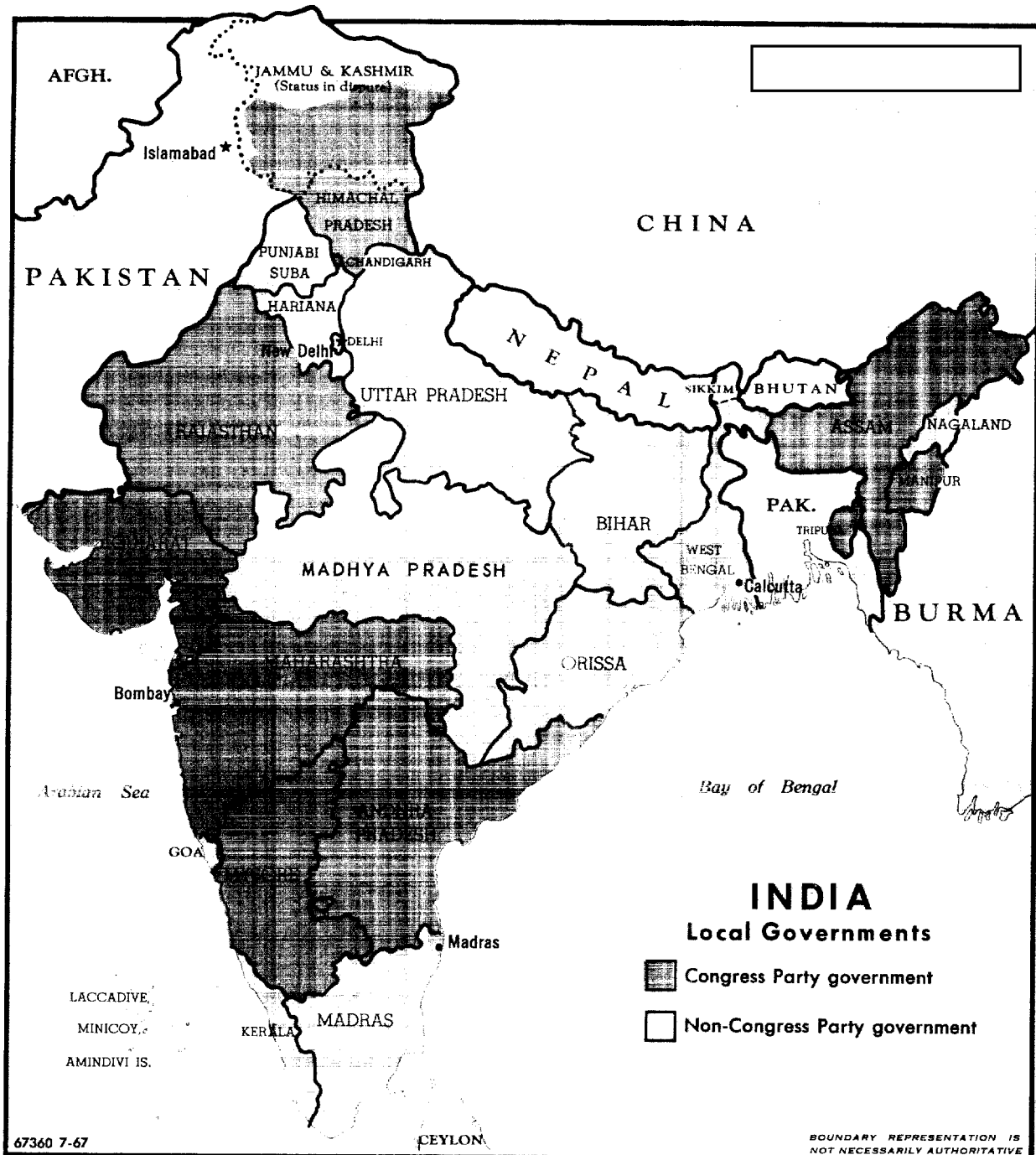
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Belaunde is under pressure from hard-line elements within his own party. On at least two occasions since 27 July, the President reportedly has had to prevent party leaders from taking actions which would increase the current tension. In addition, the military appear to be trying to use the present impasse with Congress in order to gain additional representation in the cabinet, a move which Belaunde thus far has resisted.

A prolongation of legislative inactivity would probably heighten the President's present frustration over his relations with the Congress and might cause him to implement a "contingency plan" which he has on hand in case he should decide to suspend Congress. [redacted]

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NOTES

India: The Congress Party has suffered another setback. Chief Minister D. P. Mishra's Congress government in Madhya Pradesh fell on 29 July when many defectors crossed the aisle on a budgetary vote. It was the third Congress state regime to collapse since March. It was replaced on 30 July by a coalition headed by one of the defectors but dominated by the Hindu nationalist Jan Sangh party. Mishra has been a strong supporter of Prime Minister Gandhi and his defeat is likely to weaken her within the Congress Party hierarchy.

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